

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING PROGRAMME (SDNP) HELD ON JULY 23, 2001.**

A meeting of the Steering Committee for the Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) took place on July 23, 2001 under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Chairperson, SDNP Steering Committee. The following other members were present:

1. Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, DG (a.i.), BIDS  
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
2. Mr. Md. Abdul Hakim, PD (a.i.), SDNP  
Member-Secretary, SDNP Steering Committee
3. Ms. Shireen Kamal Sayeed  
(Representative of UNDP),  
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
4. Mr. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury  
(Chairman, FEJB)  
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
5. Mr. Mamunul H Khan  
(Representative of PMU)  
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
6. Mr. A.H.M. Shafiqul Islam  
(Representative of the Ministry of Posts and telecommunications)  
Member, Steering Committee
7. Ms. Dilruba Yasmin  
(Representative of the National Programme Director, SEMP, MoEF)  
Member, Steering Committee
8. Prof Ainun Nishat  
(Country Director, IUCN Bangladesh)  
Member, Steering Committee
9. Mr. Shamsul Zaman  
(Representative of the Planning Division)  
Member, Steering Committee
10. Mr. A.R. Azimul Hoque  
(Representative of the Coordinator, ISP Forum)  
Member, Steering Committee and

The Chairperson welcomed the members to the meeting.

Upon request from the Chair, DG, BIDS presented a brief on the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Steering Committee meeting (see attachment A) and then presented an integrated report (see attachment B) on the follow-up of the minutes of the second and third meetings. Then he focussed on the main agenda of the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee.

The discussions and recommendations by the Steering Committee are described below:

## **1. Follow-up**

- i) Modification of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP): The final draft will be submitted to the Steering Committee after consultation with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, UNDP Representative and PMU Representative.
- ii) Modification of the project budget: The UNDP Representative has advised to held a meeting by August 15, 2001 for necessary adjustments and modifications in the budget revision.
- iii) Inclusion of important non-SIAs: More organizations should be given connectivity.
- iv) Cyber Café at BIDS: Inclusion of more PCs was requested.
- v) Events of importance: Publication of a CD on the occasion of the World Environment Day 2001 was praised and next time more publicity of similar events was requested.
- vi) Additional manpower for SDI: Recruitment processes can be carried out as per the plan and in consequence with the recommendations made by the UNDP Mission and the Steering Committee.
- vii) Data exchange with similar institutes: Data exchange activity has to be geared up and if possible an inventory of locally available data on sustainable development need to be included in the SDNP's web site. Institutional linkages should be increased and organizations like, EGIS, LGED and SWMC can be explored to obtain metadata or link to metadata.
- viii) New telephone lines: These telephone lines will be used for offering incoming facilities to the SDN's dial up users.
- ix) Formulation of policy on a "not-for-profit" basis of operation: The sustainability plan has been discussed and accepted. The only suggestion came that the rate of Non-SIA connectivity per minute should be same as SIA rate at Tk. 0.25 per minute.
- x) Recruitment of Database Consultant: As soon as the Database Consultant completes his official formalities, he will join the project.

## **2. Decisions Taken**

- i) Revision of the PIP:- As indicated earlier final submission of the revised PIP will be made after consultation with respective authorities.
- ii) Training of SDNP and DIBS Staff:- Three persons will be sent as per the recommendation of the Steering Committee and BIDS provision.
- iii) Main server's connectivity to Internet:- Connectivity with broadband facilities from NEKSUS has been temporarily recommended, until another cost effective facility could be obtained. However, it is suggested to continue the existing BOL link for at least two more months.

- iv) Connectivity to Mymensingh Node:- The committee recommended to proceed with the Dhaka-Mymensingh link as per the suggestion of the project.
- v) Gazipur Sub-node:- One /two experimental radio modem connectivity inside Dhaka (preferably with UNDP) was recommended in addition to two/three sub-nodes in Gazipur (BRRRI, BARI).
- vi) Approval of the Sustainability Plan: The plan was approved with minor modification as indicated earlier. However, regarding the Corporate Lease Line facility the Committee felt that this facility should be restricted to SIAs only.
- vii) Establishment of PACs: Within Dhaka city several Public Access Centres with connectivity and provision of equipment as per the recommendations of the UNDP Mission was suggested.
- viii) Visit to successful SDNP:- After consultation with UNDP and PMU proposal for another UN Mission and successful SDN visit is suggested.

As there were no other issues, the Chairperson thanked every body present and concluded the meeting.